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By random selection, 74 farm families in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, were interviewed to determine the use of recommended practices, interests of the farmers and their wives, and sources of information. Dairy farming was the major enterprise for 3/4 of the farmers. No Extension recommendations were used by 15% but 20% used seven or more of the nine recommendations. Farmers were most interested in learning about use of fertilizer, dairy herd management, milk marketing, and soil conservation; newsletters, visits from the county agent, weekly newspapers, and farm magazines were the most popular sources of information. High participation in Extension programs correlated with a larger herd, a larger farm, an older farmer, better farm business records, and a wife who participated. Farmers' wives were most interested in interior decorating and educational opportunities and careers for children. Wives preferred a newsletter and newspapers for information and were almost all very low Extension participators. Work off the farm occupied 24% of the farmers and 35% of the wives. (jf)

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PRACTICES ADOPTED, INTERESTS, AND INFORMATION SOURCES OF FARMERS AND THEIR WIVES IN TIOGA COUNTY

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The Pennsylvania State University
College of Agriculture
Extension Service
University Park, Pennsylvania

Practices Adopted, Interests, and Information Sources of Farmers and Their Wives in Tioga County

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Introduction

Knowledge about the interests of students is a basic element in planning any educational program. The Extension Staff and Executive Committee in Tioga County collected information about 1) the extent to which farmers were using the recommended practices; 2) the interests of farmers and their wives and; 3) sources of information in order to help in planning a program for them. This is a report of their findings. Information was obtained from a sample of 89 farm families selected so as to be representative of all farm families in Tioga County. Every fifteenth name was selected from the list of farmers in the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office. The Executive Committee members conducted personal interviews with this sample of farmers at their homes using a standard schedule of questions.[1] Interviews were conducted with the farmers and also their wives, if applicable. Information was obtained about the farm situation and interests of the farmer and his wife. Of the 89 farmers chosen to represent the total county, 74 were interviewed. Others were refusals or were not available. The farmers interviewed were geographically scattered throughout the total county.

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*Extension Studies Specialist, The Pennsylvania State University, and Tioga County Extension Staff (County Agent, Assistant County Agent, Extension Home Economist, and Associate Extension Home Economist respectively). Since this study Mr. Wright has resigned his position and Mrs. Haines has retired. They have been replaced by John Edwards and Ruth Dutcher.

[1]The following Executive Committee members made a significant contribution to the success of this survey by conducting the personal interviews:

Reed Zimmer, Covington
Mrs. Anne Clark, Mansfield RD# 2
Bradley Brewer, Millerton
Mrs. Mary Jones, Tioga RD#2
Robert E. Raker, Liberty
Mrs. Robert Harding, Osceola
Joseph Bohnert, Morris RD# 1
Vernard Watkins, Little Marsh RD# 1
Owen Baker, Wellsboro RD# 4
Neil Bowen, Wellsboro RD# 3
Mrs. Louise Niles, Wellsboro RD# 2
Mrs. Mary Copley, Wellsboro RD# 5
Harold Robson, Sr., Mansfield RD# 1
Emerson Trowbridge, Knoxville RD# 1
Mrs. Olin Cook, Mansfield
Ernest Norman, Liberty RD# 1
Dennis Owlett, Middlebury Center
Cecil Moyer, Roaring Branch

Tioga County Agriculture (1964 Census)

In 1964 there were 1,420 farms in Tioga County, a reduction from 1,553 in 1959. Slightly over 40% of the county's land area is in farms. The average size farm is 221 acres, an increase of 20 over 1959. The average farm value of land and findings is $17,671. About 70% of the farmers are full owners of their farms. Very few are tenants or managers. Seven hundred and sixteen of the farmers (50%) work off their farms. Five hundred and twenty-seven work 100 days or more per year off their farm. The off farm work was almost entirely at non-farm jobs. For example, during the year 1964, 4,173 days were at another farm while 106,643 days were at nonfarm jobs.

The average age of Tioga County farmers was 49.9. The majority of the farmers are in the age range 35 to 64. One out of seven is over 65.

These farmers varied considerably in the amount of formal schooling they have had, with approximately one-third having no more than eight grades of schooling, and a little over one-third having graduated from high school. Hence, the average farmer has had some high school, but is not a high school graduate.

Findings

Farm Enterprise

Farmers were asked to name their major farm enterprise. Three out of four said their major farm enterprise was dairy. A few had the dairy enterprise in combination with another enterprise. Thirteen had no dairy enterprise. Of these, two had sheep, three beef and horses, one beef and hay, one poultry and hay, four crops, and two miscellaneous. Hence, of the 74 farmers interviewed, 61 had dairying as their major farm enterprise. Considerable information will be presented which pertains only to these dairy farmers.

The dairy farmers were asked how many milking cows they had. The average number of milking cows was 33. There was considerable variation, however, with 17% reporting fewer than 20 cows. Another 18% had over 40. These farmers

had an average of 19 heifers. Sixteen percent had none.

Farm Size

Farmers were asked about land resources on their farms. The average number of total acres was 268 per farm, somewhat larger than reported in the census. There was considerable variation with 10% of the farms having fewer than 100 acres and 17% more than 400.

The average number of tillable acres per farm was 125. About 40% had fewer than 100 acres whereas 17% had over 200.

Almost all the farms in Tioga County have some woodland. The average woodland acreage was 68.5. Sixty-two percent had fewer than 50 acres. However, about 9% reported more than 200 acres of woodland.

Agronomic Practices

The farmers were asked whether in the past year they used several practices which had been recommended by Extension. Fifty-eight percent used a complete soil test for crop fields, 1% used forage testing, 34% used atrazine for weed control on corn, 8% used 24D-B for weed control on legumes, 3% sprayed for leaf hoppers or spittle bugs, 4% sprayed for alfalfa weevil, and 8% sewed legumes without a nurse or companion crop. Hence, the proportion using these practices, except for soil test, was quite low. When asked if they regularly lime their crop fields, 71% said they did. Forty-three percent regularly lime their permanent pasture.

An adoption index was computed for each farmer by counting one point for each practice used. The scores could range from zero to nine. Fifteen percent of the farmers scored zero. About 20% used seven or more of the nine practices.

Fertilizer

Farmers were asked how much fertilizer per acre they used on their corn in the spring and what analysis it was. Eleven gave no answer to this question and 15 more never used fertilizer. Eleven used from 1 to 25 pounds per acre,

25 indicated 26 to 50 pounds per acre and 12 over 50 pounds. As to the analysis of fertilizer used, 12 indicated 10-10-10, six-10-20-20, six-15-15-15, five-10-20-20, three-12-12-12, two-5-10-10, two-16-18-18, and one each said 5-10-5, 0-20-20, 5-10-50, nitrogen, and ammonia nitrate.

They were then asked how much and what analysis fertilizer they used on hay land this past year. Eighteen gave no answer and 28 said they did not use any. Ten used from 1 to 25 pounds, 15 from 26 to 50 pounds per acre and three used over 50 pounds per acre. As to the analysis, five said 0-25-25, four-0-20-20, three-10-10-10, three-10-20-20, two-0-15-30, and one each said 33-0-0, 16-8-8, 5-10-10, 8-16-16, and 6-24-24.

They were also asked about use of fertilizer on permanent pasture. Twenty-two gave no answer and 27 said they didn't use any. Seven used from 1 to 25 pounds, 14, 26 to 50 pounds, and four used more than 50 pounds per acre. When asked for the analysis used, four said 10-20-20 and four 0-20-20, two said 10-10-10 and one each said 16-8-8, 60-100-100, 0-15-30, 15-15-15, 60-80-0, 0-20-0, 6-24-24, and 5-10-10, two said nitrogen and two ammonia nitrate. Evidently a large number of the farmers don't use fertilizer on any of their fields.

They were asked if they felt it paid to use the amount of fertilizer and lime that they did. Fifteen percent gave no response. Of those who responded, 83% said yes, 5% no, and 12% didn't know.

Record Keeping

The dairymen were asked if they kept records on the production of each individual cow and what kind of records they maintain. Sixty percent do not keep records on each individual cow. Thirty-one percent belong to the DHIA, 5% use the owner sampler method, and 2% use both methods.

Farmers were asked what kind of written records they keep for their farm enterprise. Fifty-six percent keep a farm record book on the total farm business, 18% keep a record book on individual enterprises, 74% maintain a record

of expense and income, 80% keep receipts, 86% keep check stubs, and 82% keep the bills.

They were then asked for what purpose they used these various kinds of written records. Forty-seven percent used them to estimate profit and loss, 40% to help plan the total farm operation, 7% to analyze a specific enterprise, and 96% for income tax or social security purposes.

Production Per Cow

As one index of good management, dairymen were asked about the annual milk production for their cows in thousands of pounds for the past year. Thirteen of the dairymen could give no estimate (about one-fifth of them). The estimated annual production ranged from 1000 pounds to over 18,000 pounds with the most typical being 13,000 to 14,000 pounds. Only a few indicated less than 10,000 pounds, and only a few more than 15,000 pounds per cow.

Months Between Calving

Dairymen were asked how many months between calves their herd averaged. Sixty percent indicated 12 months, 10% thirteen, 10% fourteen and very few less than 12 months.

Herd Health

Since the Extension Staff felt considerable work in the field of herd health was needed, several questions were asked in an attempt to determine the status of the herd health for the dairymen of the county. Several questions dealing with herd health were then combined into an index which permitted the dairymen to be classified into different categories. Only 20% of the dairymen keep a disease health record for each cow, so the evidence obtained was on a recall basis and was subject to the bias inherent in this type of data.

The dairymen were asked how much they spent for veterinarian service for their herd this past year. Eleven percent could not give an answer; 3% spent none; 7%, less than $50; 15%, $50-$99; 5%, $100-$149; 7%, $150-$199; 8%, $200-$249;

7% each spent $250-$299; $300-$399; and $400-$499; 3% spent $450-$499, 2%, $500-$599; and 10%, $600-$699; one dairyman spent over $800. This sample spent a total of $13,934 for vet services which is an average of $8.03 per cow.

Dairymen were asked how many calves died the past year before they were two weeks old. Twenty-six percent said none; 15% one; 25% said two and 22% said more than two with the highest being 11.

Farmers were asked how many cows in their herd during the past year showed evidence of five different diseases in the previous year. For each disease almost one-third of the dairymen failed to respond. Of the 41 who responded about retained placenta, 20% had no evidence of this difficulty in the past year; 12% had one cow with retained placenta, 24% had two cows, 15% three, 10% four, 7% five, 10% six, and 24% had seven.

Of the 38 dairymen responding about cystic ovaries, 37% had no occurrence, 16% had one cow with cystic ovaries, 10% two cows, 18% three cows, 5% four, 3% five, 5% six cows and 3% seven. One dairyman reported 15 cows with this trouble.

Of the 48 dairymen reporting about mastitis, 10% had no incidence of it, 6% had one cow, 21% two cows, 10% three cows, 15% four cows, 10% five cows, 6% six cows, 2% seven, 4% eight cows, 4% ten cows, 4% twelve cows, 4% fifteen and one dairyman reported 30 cows with mastitis.

Of the 39 who reported about ketosis, 31% had no occurrence of it, 10% had difficulty with one cow, 10% with two cows, 8% with three, 8% with four, 8% with five, 8% with six, 3% with seven cows, 3% with nine cows, 8% with 10 cows, 3% with 12, and 3% with 15 cows.

Regarding milk fever, of the 47 who answered, 13% had no cases of it, 23% had milk fever in one cow, 25% two cows, 20% from three to five cows, and 18% from seven to 15 cows.

The farmers were asked how often they withheld milk from the market because of disease or abnormal flavor during this past year. Of the 50 who responded, 50% said never and 50% one or more times.

When asked if they had their cows checked by a vet for pregnancy, 54% said yes, 35% no, and 12% occasionally.

Farmers were asked if they gave their cows certain vitamins and minerals in addition to the regular ration. Seventy-six percent gave vitamins, 88% minerals, and 97% salt.

A health index was developed for each dairyman by giving them scores which could range from zero to ten. The index was developed by using these weights: one point if the farmer kept a disease health record for each cow; one point if 7% or fewer of their cows had retained placenta; one point if 3% or fewer of their cows had cystic ovaries; one point if 5% or fewer of their cows had mastitis; one point if 5% or fewer of their cows had ketosis; one point if 5% or fewer of their cows had milk fever; one point if milk was withheld from the market five times or less; one point if the cows were checked by a vet for pregnancy; one point if the number of months between calves was 12 to 13; and one point if 10% or fewer of the calves died before they were two weeks old. Hence, the top score anyone could attain was ten. The actual scores ranged from one to nine with the highest scores indicating better herd health. Of the 61 dairymen, 10 had scores of three or less, 14 had scores of four or five, 28 had scores of six or seven and nine had scores of eight or nine. When these scores were related to the size of herd, there was little relationship with the exception that those with a score of one (the lowest) on health index, had the fewest cows, an average of 22. Except for these two dairymen, however, there was no relationship between size of cow herd and the health index.

Farming Interests

From a list of suggested topics, farmers were asked which they would like to read or hear about. Regarding animals, 55% expressed an interest in

knowing more about dairy herd management, 20% in beef production and management, 19% in parasite control, and few indicated an interest in poultry, sheep or horses (Table 1).

Table 1: Percent of Tioga County Farmers Who Would Like to Hear or Read About Various Agricultural Topics.

	Animals
5	Feeding and care of horses
19	Parasite control (external & internal)
20	Beef production and management
55	Dairy herd management
3	Poultry production
9	Sheep management
	Crops
59	Use of fertilizers and lime
38	Chemical weed control
24	Disease control on crops
32	Insect control - crops
38	Production of crops
9	Bird damage control
24	Wildlife damage to crops
	Farm Management
24	Farm business analysis
22	Management of farm woodlot
22	Economic expansion of dairy
5	Getting credit
36	Farm record keeping
14	Alternatives to farming
5	Opportunities for off farm work
32	Estate planning (deeds & wills)
20	Father and son agreement
8	Corporation farming
41	Soil conservation practices
24	Taxes
23	Social Security
34	Future trends in farming
18	Farm labor problems
26	Farm machinery
43	Milk marketing
22	Livestock marketing
0	Marketing of eggs
8	Marketing of products from farm woodlot
	Other
19	Water rights
15	Planning for various land uses
15	Sewage disposal
12	How to handle pesticides
30	Highway regulations about use of machinery
26	Working around machinery

With respect to crops, 59% were interested in use of fertilizers and lime, 38% in chemical weed control and production of crops, 32% in insect control on crops, 24% in disease control on crops, and 24% in wildlife damage to crops.

In the area of farm management, 41% were interested in soil conservation practices and 34% in future trends in farming; 20% were interested in such topics as farm machinery, social security, taxes, father-son agreements, economic expansion of dairy, management of farm woodlot and, farm business analysis. Thirty percent were interested in keeping farm records and estate planning. Few indicated an interest in getting credit, opportunities for off farm work and corporation farming.

As to marketing, 43% were interested in milk marketing, and 22% in livestock marketing. Marketing of eggs and woodlot products was of little interest to only a few. For miscellaneous topics, 30% were interested in highway regulations about use of machinery, 26% in how to work around machinery, 19% in water rights, 15% in planning for various land uses, 15% in sewage disposal, and 12% in learning how to handle pesticides.

Plans for Remodeling

When asked if they plan to do any barn remodeling in the next year, 13% said yes. Anticipated projects include the following: building a milking parlor, adding a roof, expanding space for more cows, heifer housing, putting a ceiling in the barn, and building a calf pen.

When asked if they plan to do any major remodeling in the house in the next year, 16% said yes. Examples of planned projects were: a new bathroom, a new house, enclose the porch, change the windows, new kitchen, new heating system, alter the attic for a bedroom, and add a new porch.

Preferred Methods of Communication

After farmers indicated their interests they were asked about various ways in which they would like to receive this information. They indicated their first and second choice of seven different methods. First choice by a large

majority was that of a newsletter from the county agent, given by 51% as their first choice. The next preferred method was a personal visit from the county agent by 21%, 12% gave first preference to radio and newspaper and only one or two preferred meetings or television; no one chose the telephone.

With respect to second choice, 22% chose the newsletter, 20% a personal visit, 23% the newspaper, 15% meetings, and only a few preferred television, telephone or the radio. Hence, the preferred method is that of a newsletter followed by personal visit and newspaper.

Meetings

Since Extension Staff allocate considerable time to meetings, each farmer was asked for additional informotion about his preference for meetings. As to time, 70% preferred an evening meeting, 23% in the afternoon, and only 7% in the morning. As to place, 61% chose Wellsboro, the county seat, and 40% another place. As to length of meeting, 46% prefer two hours, 39% one hour, 15% one-half hour, and no one chose more than two hours. These farmers are not predisposed to having a series of meetings to study a subject in depth. Seventy-three percent chose to have only one meeting on a topic while 27% would prefer to have a series of meetings on the same topic.

Newspapers

The farmers were asked what weekly newspapers they subscribe to. Twenty percent subscribed to the Elkland Journal, 38% to the Wellsboro Advertiser, 34% to the Wellsboro Gazette, 22% to the Mansfield Advertiser, 20% to the Grit, 22% to the Westfield Free Press, and 35% to various other weeklies including the Valley Dollar Saver, the Elmira Star Gazette, Corning Leader, Canton paper, Williamsport Star Gazette, New York Sunday News, Pittsburg Press, National Observer, and Sunday Telegram.

Farm Magazines

They were then asked what farm magazines they subscribe to by using a list to which they responded yes or no. Sixty-eight percent subscribed to the

Pennsylvania Farmer, 66% to Hoards Dairyman, 64% to American Agriculturalist, 62% to Successful Farming, 93% to Farm Journal, 5% to Better Farming Methods, 15% to the Farm Quarterly, 66% to the Agway Cooperator, and 24% to the Pennsylvania Holstein News.

Extension Participation

The husband was asked about various ways in which he might have participated in the Extension program in the past year. Twenty-eight percent had attended a meeting,tour or a field day organized by Extension; 22% were visited by an Extension staff member; 53% had been to the Extension office; 92% had received a circular from Extension; 50% read an article in the newspaper written by an Extension staff member; 32% watched an Extension TV program.

Several questions were asked about radio listening. Three percent listened to the county agent's radio program at 6:25 a.m. the day of the interview. Ten percent more did some time in the previous week. Fourteen percent listened to the Extension noon program the day of the interview,and 19% more did at some time in the previous week. Three percent heard the Penn State Agri Digest radio program the day of the interview and 7% more did in the past week. One percent listened to the Extension home economist's program at 11:00 a.m. that day and 7% more had heard it in the past week.

Eighty-three percent were aware of a newsletter on alfalfa weevil which the agent had recently mailed to them. They were asked how much of it they found time to read. Forty-one percent said they read all of it, 22% most of it, 12% one-half of it, 12% little of it, and only 12% none of it. When asked if they had done anything suggested in the letter, the few suggestions given included cutting hay early or spraying for weevil.

They were also asked if they had read this week's county agent's column in the Dunham paper, a weekly. Twenty-eight percent said they did. Farmers were asked how often they read this column. Thirty-three percent read

it every week, 17% often, 15% seldom, and 33% never. Since only 25 respondents received the Dunham newspaper and 19 of these indicated reading the column, it is quite obvious that most of the farmers who subscribe to the paper do read the agent's column.

Each farmer was given an Extension participation index by counting one for each of six ways in which he might have participated. Hence, the possible range of scores was zero to six. Forty-two percent had scores of zero to two; 26% had a score of three; and, 32% had a score of four to six. Almost half of the farmers are evidently low participators in the Extension program.

This Extension participation index was related to several characteristics of the family and the farm. The high participators had more cows. Those with high scores had an average of 38 cows compared with 30 for the low participators. Those farmers living on larger farms (acreage) were more likely to be high participators. The older farmers were also higher participaters than the younger ones. The high participants in Extension more often kept records of their farm business. Participation is partly a family phenomenon because there was a positive correlation between the wife's participation in Extension and the husband's participation. If the husband was a high participator the wife was likely to be a high participator. Probably the attitudes and values of the farm family regarding commitment to farming are important indicators of Extension participation.

Findings From Homemakers

Homemaking Interests

The farm homemaker was asked if she would like to receive information on several different topics related to homemaking. In the area of management, 51% were interested in interior decorating. Only a small percentage were interested in information about buying of large appliances, use of small kitchen appliances, credit buying, home budget plan, or installment buying (See Table 2).

Table 2: Percent of Tioga County Farm Homemakers Who Would Like to Read or Learn More About Various Homemaking Topics.

	Management
51	Interior decorating
10	Buying of large appliances, e.g., freezers, washers, etc.
15	Use of small kitchen appliances
3	Credit buying
15	Home budget plan
3	Installment buying
	Children
18	Disciplining children (guiding)
33	Educational opportunities and careers for children
	House and Furnishings
29	Furniture repair
32	Floor coverings (rugs, tile, etc.)
36	Interior decorating supplies
22	Materials for home rebuilding or construction
	Personal and Family
28	Weight reduction and dieting
22	Improved Appearance
14	Family outdoor recreation and exercise
3	Use of leisure time
26	Family health and medical care
29	Flower arrangements
31	Crafts made in the home
28	Life after 40
8	Birth control
25	Educational tours to other areas of state and region

With respect to children, 33% said they had an interest in educational opportunities and careers for children; 18% wanted information about disciplining or guiding them.

In home furnishings, about one-third were interested in furniture repair, floor coverings (like rugs, etc.), and interior decorating supplies. A much smaller percentage were interested in materials for home rebuilding and construction.

In the area of personal and family items, about one-fourth indicated an interest in diet and weight reduction, improved appearance, family health and medical care, flower arrangements, crafts made in the home, life after 40,

and educational tours to other areas of the state and region. A smaller proportion wanted to read or hear about family outdoor recreation, use of leisure time, and birth control.

The professional home economists tentatively planned to conduct a 10 week course on medical self-help. The respondents were asked if they would be interested in attending this course if held in their local community. Twelve percent said they would, 40% would not, and 48% did not know.

Preferred Methods of Communication

The women were asked how they would like to receive information on these homemaking topics. Similar to the husbands they were given seven different methods from which to choose. Sixty-six percent of the homemakers gave first preference to the newsletter from the home economist, 11% radio, 6% newspaper, 6% television, 4% a personal visit from the home economist, and 4% meetings, no one chose the telephone. For second choice the method most often preferred was that of the newspaper by 24%. But, 23% chose the newsletter as the second choice. Seventeen percent voted for meetings, 13% for personal visits, 8% for telephone, and 6% for radio. Hence, similar to the husbands, the newsletter from the home economists was the most preferred method of obtaining homemaking information, followed by the newspaper.

Extension Participation

The homemakers were asked about various ways in which they may have participated in Extension in the past year. Seventeen percent had been to a meeting conducted by the home economists, 15% met with an Extension staff member at their home, 14% went to the Extension office, 60% received a circular letter from the Extension staff, 44% read an article in the newspaper written by an Extension staff member, and 21% watched the Saturday TV program.

None of the homemakers had listened to the morning county agent's radio program the day of the interview, 3% had listened at some time within

the past week, 11% heard the noon radio program the day of the interview and 8% more listened sometime within the past week. Three percent heard the Penn State Agri Digest radio program in the evening the previous day and 3% more had heard it sometime within the past week. Eleven percent listened to the Extension home economist's 11:00 a.m. radio program the day interviewed and 15% more heard it sometime within the past week.

Forty percent were aware of receiving a newsletter from the Extension home economists even though it was sent to all the people who were interviewed. When asked how much of it they had time to read, 48% of those who admitted receiving it read all of it and 29% most of it. Only 16% read little of it and 6% none of it. When asked if they had done anything suggested, only one person gave a positive response.

The homemakers were given a score on how much they participated in Extension in the past year ranging from zero to seven. Twenty-seven percent of the homemakers had a score of zero, 19% had a score of one, 17% a score of two. Only 19 homemakers had a score above two. Hence, the bulk of the homemakers were very low participators in Extension.

Difficulties of Homemakers

The homemakers were asked what difficulties they faced in preparing meals for the family. Most often mentioned were problems of having a variety of foods which the family would eat and finding the time to prepare proper meals. Seven indicated the first type of problem and a few the second type. Three said they had difficulty finding something everyone in the family liked and two had difficulties budgeting their income to buy the right kind of food. The following were each mentioned once: preparing meals to meet the needs of the entire family; knowing what to fix; fixing something different; having new ideas; preparing the right balanced meals; finding new recipes which are low cost; getting the family to eat vegetables; knowing the time each member will be at the house; and, cooking

for two after having a large family.

The problems in buying food related primarily to price, with 13 mentioning something in this category. Two mentioned buying something to satisfy the family, and a few mentioned problems of budgeting.

Perceived problems of storing, canning, or freezing foods were practically nil. The three mentioned pertained to freezing.

Homemakers were asked what information they would be interested in having on clothing. Seven people mentioned the problem of making clothes, six needed information on styles of clothing, five on care of clothes, four on buying them, three on storing clothing, and one on patterns suited for individuals.

Homemakers were also asked what type of illness their family had in the past year. Thirteen mentioned colds, two a virus, and two tonsillitis. Others mentioned once each were broken bones, removing an ovary cyst, uremic poison, high blood pressure, chicken pox, arthritis, flu, stroke, gallbladder operation, measles, mumps, hepatitis, pregnancy, and upset stomachs.

Characteristics of the Families

As to the age of the husband, two-thirds were under 50 and one-third were over 50. Hence, this sample of farmers is slightly biased toward the younger farmer.

The farm women in this sample also had a higher level of schooling than the average in the county. Sixty-seven percent of the homemakers had graduated from high school and about 5% had more than high school. About 10% had eight grades or less, and 20% more had some high school.

Twenty-four percent of the dairy farmers worked off the farm and 35% of the wives did. The husbands who worked off the farm were asked what they did. Occupations included school bus drivers, contractor, milk hauler, carpenter, mechanic, working at a tanning company, assessor, semiskilled labor, etc.

The women who worked outside the home were asked what they do. They gave such occupations as laborer, school cafeteria cook, antique shop worker, cook at restaurant, work at the high school, waitress, and general work.

Summary

1. The farmers in Tioga County are extremely heterogeneous with respect to size of farm enterprise, age, education, size of family, and dependence upon the farm as a source of income. They are similar in that a big proportion are dairy farmers who own their farms.
2. The agricultural practices being recommended by Extension have been adopted by a minority of farmers. While most farmers are using fertilizer, relatively few are evidently using the optimum amount which would maximize their profits.
3. Veterinary costs range from very little to over $800 per farmer with the average being about $8 per cow. Index of herd health varied considerably for these dairy farmers.
4. Dairy herd management, milk marketing, fertilizers, and soil conservation practices were topics in which these farmers were most interested.
5. The wives were most interested in interior decorating, floor coverings, and vocational guidance for their children.
6. Both men and women prefer the newsletter as a means of getting information about agricultural and homemaking topics. A large proportion are exposed to farm magazines and newspapers as sources of information. A small proportion attend meetings. Additional incentives are necessary to motivate a large proportion of men and women to participate in Extension meetings.
7. While Extension was effective in communicating with many of these farmers and their wives by several different methods, the majority were reached by only one or two methods, usually by circular letter or newspaper.
8. About one-third of these farmers and their wives are oriented to off farm work in addition to their farm.